

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the current claims with the following claims:

1. (currently amended) A modified Cry protein, said protein comprising at least one additional pepsin cleavage site relative to a corresponding unmodified Cry protein, wherein said modified Cry protein has increased sensitivity to degradation by pepsin and wherein said protein retains insecticidal activity.
2. (previously presented) The modified Cry protein of Claim 1, wherein the at least one additional pepsin cleavage site is represented by an amino acid residue chosen from leucine, phenylalanine and glutamic acid residues.
3. (currently amended) The modified Cry protein of Claim 1, ~~which~~ wherein the corresponding unmodified Cry protein is selected from the group consisting of Cry1, Cry3, Cry4, Cry7, Cry8, Cry9, Cry10, Cry16, Cry17, Cry19 and Cry20 proteins.
4. (currently amended) The modified Cry protein of Claim 3, wherein the corresponding unmodified Cry protein is a Cry9 protein and further is a Cry9C protein.
5. (currently amended) The modified Cry protein of Claim 4, wherein the corresponding unmodified Cry9C protein is a Cry9Ca1 protein.
6. (previously presented) The modified Cry protein of Claim 1, wherein the at least one additional pepsin cleavage site is in at least one of the inter- α -helix loops of domain I of said modified Cry protein.
7. (previously presented) The modified Cry protein of Claim 6, wherein the at least one additional pepsin cleavage site is in the inter- α -helix loop linking the α 3 and α 4 helices of domain I.

8. (previously presented) The modified Cry protein of Claim 5, wherein the at least one additional pepsin cleavage site is at position 164.

9. (currently amended) The modified Cry protein of Claim 8, ~~further~~ comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6 ~~or~~ and SEQ ID NO:8.

10. (previously presented) The modified Cry protein of Claim 1, wherein the at least one additional pepsin cleavage site is introduced by substituting one or more aspartic acid residue with one or more glutamic acid residue, substituting one or more tryptophan residue with one or more phenylalanine residue, and substituting one or more valine or one or more isoleucine residue with one or more leucine residue.

11. (previously presented) The modified Cry protein of Claim 10, wherein the degree of substitutions which said modified Cry protein possesses is 25% of all aspartic acid, tryptophan, valine or isoleucine residues.

12-40. (cancelled)